Questions and Answers.

Propertied people in the State—Statistics of.

1. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—With reference to Question 58, dated 1st August 1933, regarding 'the Haves' and 'Have-nots' amomg our people, will the Government kindly state (a) the reasons for their non-possession of the statistics;

(b) whether it is not their policy to spend "much labour and time" to read the actual depths of Economic Distress of the majority of our population;

(c) the length of notice the Government had to answer the question under reference;

(d) whether any attempt has been made to collect the statistics required in the question under reference ever after 1st August 1933 and the number of months that has elapsed between now and 1st August 1933;

(e) whether the information required cannot be now produced and if it can be what it is?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) Because the Government did not feel the necessity to collect such statistics.

(b) Yes; when and where it is necessary.

(c) About 3 months.

(d) No. More than 15 months.

(e) No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim. — Do not the Government think that some of these questions have been answered very very summarily?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— No, Sir.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— May I take it that it is the intention of the Government to co-operate with us rather than non-co-operate?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— You may take it that co-operation is the intention of the Government as far as possible.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— With reference to (a) may I know, Sir, whether this question is not a very vital one bearing upon the economic well-being of the people?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— I may state that the difficulty there is not about the vitality of the question but about the intelligibility. If the Hon'ble Member will tell us where to draw the boundary line between the "haves" and "have nots" statistics might be collected. If you give us a definition of the "haves" and "have nots" collection of statistics may be facilitated. In the absence of any specific instruction regarding the "haves" and "have nots" Government can have no

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information and have not the materials ready for collecting statistics.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— A broad line — for example people who cannot command any capital for an economic enterprise. If that is the intention of the question could not the Hon'ble Member make such a broad differentiation between the "haves" and "have nots".?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— Will the Hon'ble Member kindly define 'capital' and possession of what amount would constitute capital—whether it is an absolute absence of all cash or not. I think that an arbitrary line would have to be drawn as to the possession of so much capital would constitute the 'haves' and the non-possession of so much capital the "have nots".

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim— The answer given is not like that.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— The Government did not consider it necessary because the question was not clear. It was found that collection of statistics was impossible.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— May I take it that the proper answer would have been to draw a line of demarcation?

Mr. K Achyuta Menon.— Exactly, that is why we did not feel it necessary.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— Is it the position of the Government now that no statistics relating to the economic disparity and irregular distribution have to be collected by the Government.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim. — Is not this answer inconsistent with the answer now given by the Hon'ble Member?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— It is a matter of opinion. I think, no.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— With reference to (b) may I kindly get one instance as example where it will be necessary?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.— On a point of order. It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— I should think so.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— I was asking about one particular instance.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— For instance when a representation is received that the agriculturists of the State are in distress, it will become necessary for the Government to investigate and as a matter of fact it is being investigated.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— I want to know a particular instance which according to the Government will be an appropriate one to collect such statistics.

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Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— The particular instance is the agrarian distress in the State. It has become necessary for the Government to go into the question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— About the non-agriculturists?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon. — It is being investigated along with the economic survey.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— With reference to (e) may I know why?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.— The same answer as (a).

Statistics of suicide in the State.

2. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Adverting to Question 59, dated 1st August 1933, regarding suicide statistics in the State and its economic causation, will the Government kindly say what the most common cause of suicide in this State is (vide sub-division answers (2) and (3)?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.— Due to the complicated nature of the cases, it has not been possible to fix definitely the most common cause of suicides in the State. From a study of the cases of the Anjikaimal District for the year 1109, it is, however, found that only in 3 out of the 29 cases was poverty the motive for the crime. Some of the other causes for the prevalence of this crime in the State were (1) Incurable disease and acute pain, (2) Domestic quarrel, (3) Temporary insanity (4) Mental pain and (5) Fear of disgrace of penalty.

Economic aspect of crimes.

3. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—With reference to Question 65, dated 1st August 1933, regarding the economic aspect of crimes, will the Government kindly show the most common cause of crime ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.— The member's attention is drawn to the answer to the Question No. 2.

Statistics of suicide in the State.

4. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Adverting to Question 59, dated 1st August 1933, regarding suicide statistics in the State and its economic causation, will the Government kindly state the methods they adopted to arrive at the figure "·375" to every 10 thousand of the population?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The total number of cases of suicide for the three years 1105, 1106 and 1107 for the whole State was taken and the average per year was found to be 45.

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